

For fossil energy R&D, the bill provides \$433 million, and establishes a new powerplant improvement program to support demonstration of advanced coal power technologies. This is an initiative that I am sure Senator **Byrd** will wish to discuss further, because it is one of his favorite items.

Mr. Byrd...Within the Fossil Energy Research and Development account, funds have been provided to undertake a power plant improvement initiative. This new effort is vital to our Nation if we hope to continue our economic expansion. Upgrading and renewing our out-of-date and undersized electric power system cannot wait. We cannot sit back and wait for the development of new power sources which, to date, have not proved commercially viable.

The fact is, more than half of this Nation's electricity is generated in coal-fired power plants, a situation that is not likely to change for the foreseeable future.

We are working today by virtue of the lights that are in the ceiling of this Chamber. It used to be in this country that this Chamber was lighted by gas. It was only in this century, the 20th century--and we are not into the 21st yet--it was only in this century that we saw air-conditioning come to this Chamber.

From where does this energy come? What is the source? What is the source of the little light we see at night burning in the top of the Washington Monument?

I made a trip around the world with a House committee in 1955, 45 years ago. We went around the world in an old Constellation, four propellers. We visited many countries. Today it would be called a junket. But we were away 68 days. We visited many countries throughout the world. When I was in high school, I read a book by Jules Verne titled 'Around the World in 80 Days.' We went around the world in 68 days. Of course, John Glenn went around the world in, I believe it was 81 minutes.

The point I am making is I visited many countries, saw many things, met many high people--kings and princes and queens, shahs. We saw wonderful edifices, beautiful edifices, great edifices, such as the Taj Mahal. But the most enjoyable, pleasurable, satisfying, and comforting thing I saw on that whole trip was when we flew back into Washington and I saw those two or three little red lights in the top of the Washington Monument. There we were, home again, where we could go to the water faucet and drink without fear that we might succumb to some disease. Having been in Afghanistan on that trip and Jakarta and India, Pakistan, Korea, and Malaysia--all of these places where one certainly must not, at that time, drink the water without its being boiled--it brought to me in a very vivid way what a wonderful country we have and how great it is to be home, back in the good old United States of America, where we take so many things for granted.

There were those lights in the top of the Washington Monument, and here are these lights. Take away coal; take away those lights. The great eastern cities of New York and Philadelphia and Boston, the great cities of the East--take away the coal, and it is going to shut down a lot of industries. People will then begin to appreciate that coal miner whose sweat, and sometimes tears, and sometimes blood afford this great country the leisure and the comfort that come from coal-fired plants.

We are working to make this coal more environmentally feasible. We have gone a long way. I have supported appropriations and initiated appropriations for clean coal technology, and we have seen the results of this research that is being done by these funds that come out of the committee on which the distinguished minority whip, Mr. **Reid**, and I sit.

There are people in this Government who, I imagine, would like to see the mines closed, coal mining done away with; shut them down. We know we are in transition, and we are preparing for that eventuality by the fact that we appropriate funds in this committee to produce energy in an environmentally feasible manner.

Mr. REID. I ask my friend from West Virginia this question. I can't pass up the opportunity; whenever I hear someone talking about miners, my mind is flooded with thoughts of my father. The Senator and I have discussed what a hard job a miner has. I can remember, as if it were yesterday, my father coming home, muddy and dirty, telling us he had another hard day at the office. The fact of the matter is, he worked very hard. Miners work very hard.

The Senator from West Virginia has done such an outstanding job of protecting miners, and not only coal miners. You have helped us with our gold miners, people who go under the Earth for other types of product than coal.

I also say this to my friend from West Virginia, my leader. This Government needs to do more with clean coal technology. We started a plant near Reno, NV, which cost hundreds of millions of dollars. But in the second phase of it, the Government did not come through in helping with that energy-efficient use of coal, and therefore they are going to have to switch and do something else.

The Federal Government has the means now of clean coal technology. But we have been too cheap as a government. We need to spend more money on clean coal technology. If we spent more money on clean coal technology, we would be less dependent on oil. So I want to help the Senator from West Virginia any way I can to make sure we do more with developing clean coal technology. And with the technology we have, let's make sure the Federal Government helps implement this in places such as Reno, at the Tracy plant, so we can do a better job of cleaning the air.

Mr. BYRD. Yes. I thank my friend for his excellent contribution to the colloquy.

Many times, as he has said, we have discussed this matter. He understands the background from which I came--which is a similar background to that from which he came--the coal mining; in his case, gold mining; in my case, coal mining. Sometimes we refer to it as 'black gold.'

This coal has provided the livelihood for thousands of miners over the years, who have risked their lives to go into those coal mines. So research, I have believed during the years I have been on the Senate Appropriations Committee--42 years--is the answer to many of the things, research. And through research, mining has been made more safe. We have fewer and fewer miners being killed annually than we have had in the past.

It has been a very bloody--a very bloody--employment and a very bloody industry, if you go back over the years. So we have improved the safety. We are helping to clean up the environment. We are understanding ways in which coal may be mined more cheaply. And that is the result of the moneys that have been appropriated through this Subcommittee on Interior.

As I have already indicated, I have appropriated, I have been the source of the appropriations of millions of dollars for clean coal technology. And I have to say that my own administration has several times, in the budget that has been sent up here to the Congress, recommended deferring--deferring--some of these moneys, using these moneys that are there for clean coal technology, using them for something else, or even rescinding some of those moneys.

Now I have fought--fought--these budget recommendations off several times. So I think we have reached the point where the Presidential candidates need to talk about this. And I hope they will.

Given that reality, it makes good, common sense for the United States to try to ease the demand on the existing fleet of electric plants. And, so, the conferees have included this new power plant improvement initiative in an effort to bring business and Government together in a productive partnership that will produce more energy, yet cleaner energy. I am pleased that this effort is being made, and I thank the distinguished chairman for his help in ensuring that our Nation's energy needs continue to be a top priority.

I thank the other members of the Appropriations Committee. And I thank our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol on the Appropriations Committee there who have worked with us in this regard.

Beyond this particular program, let me also say how much I appreciate the chairman's overall support for projects and programs of importance to the minority Members of this body. I have already referred to that, but I think it bears reflecting upon again. As always, his graciousness, his dedication to duty, and his steadfast commitment to working in a bipartisan manner have made this conference far less arduous than it might otherwise have been. Despite all the tangents that conferees are wont to go off on--if left to their own devices; and I understand how that is very easily done--Senator **Gorton** never lost sight of the ultimate task at hand.

So in my opinion, based on my experience, he is the consummate professional. And he and his staff--we must not forget the staff. We often hear that the clothes make the man. Well, I must say, based on my experience here, that the staff, in large measure, make the Senator and help to turn the wheels of the Nation. So our staffs are to be commended for their efforts.

I urge all my colleagues, Mr. President, to support this conference report so that we can send it to the White House for the President's signature.

[Debate continued from Sen. Fitzgerald on the Abraham Lincoln Library and from Sen. Landrieu on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act - CARA]